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DE RUEHIN #3361/01 2710916  
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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC KMDR KPAQ TW

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: PRESIDENT CHEN'S CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM  
PROPOSAL, DPP'S TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY

¶1. Summary: Taiwan's major Chinese-language dailies focused their coverage September 28 on the planned meeting between Premier Su Tseng-chang and KMT Chairman Ma Ying-jeou; on the DPP's twentieth

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anniversary; on the follow-on movements of former DPP Chairman Shih Ming-teh's campaign to oust President Chen Shui-bian; and on the investigation into the Presidential Office's special fund for state affairs. The pro-status quo "China Times" ran a front-page banner headline thaQaid "DPP's New Generations: Rejecting Bian [as their] Political Leader."

¶2. In terms of editorials and commentaries, a "China Times" analysis discussed Beijing's attitude toward President Chen's recent constitutional reform proposal, saying China is working with the United States to put on a two-man show in an attempt jointly to restrain Taiwan independence. A "China Times" editorial commented on the DPP's twentieth anniversary, saying the party has won political power but has lost its cleanliness. An editorial in the pro-unification "United Daily News" also strongly criticized the DPP, saying it has no imagination and is full of deception. End summary.

¶3. President Chen's Constitutional Reform Proposal

"Taking Preemptive Move to Oppose Independence, U.S., China Put on a Two-man Show"

Journalist Chu Chien-ling said in an analysis in the pro-status quo "China Times" [circulation: 400,000] (9/28):

"With regard to the DPP's move to push 'provocative' constitutional reforms when the party itself is in a relatively 'fragile' state now, almost everyone knows clearly what the DPP's intention was and what the result of such a move will be. Beijing, however, lashed out at the DPP's move using harsh language that has rarely been seen over these past few years, [even] when the entire situation is not quite clear yet. In addition to taking a 'preemptive' move, Beijing also intended to put on a two-man show with the United States. ... Beijing tried to stop Taiwan from moving toward independence in such a big way, even though it knows very clearly that the chances are slim for the [DPP] constitutional reform proposal on territorial redefinition to be passed, mainly because it wants to draw a red line to indicate clearly and firmly its position toward Taiwan. Also, Beijing did it to rehearse with the United States regarding how to work together to restrain Taiwan independence."

¶4. DPP's Twentieth Anniversary

A) "Does the DPP Still Remember the 'DPP' of Twenty Years Ago?"

The pro-status quo "China Times" [circulation: 400,000]  
editorialized (9/28):

"When we look back at the past two decades, [we saw that] the DPP has spent most of its time fighting an uphill battle. Under an unfair system and environment, the DPP, with the assistance of [various] movements over time, has gradually expanded its room for survival and consequently won political power based merely on its obsession with ideals and closeness to the public opinion. ... It is a pity that, after having attained the highest office, the DPP started to roll downhill at an accelerating speed and with a rather ugly posture.

"What people feel most evidently was that the DPP got the power but lost its cleanliness; it became almost the same as the rival that it wanted to defeat. Many [DPP] members, from the president on down, took high positions and enjoyed immense resources beyond their dreams, and they seem to have lost themselves in the dark holes of corruption without any signs of struggling. ... The party's previous ideals of democracy and human rights have turned into sharp irony now. The party that was once designated to pursue democracy has put aside all the major policy decisions a government should make; there seems to be only one single opinion inside the party, with those on the top chanting their support for Bian, while few down below dare to state the truth. ... Over these years, the DPP has not transformed itself, grown, or walked out of its past; nor has it attempted to lead Taiwan forward. This is not simply because of laziness; the DPP's real problem lies in its aging. ..."

B) "From Imagination to Hoax: Green Political Experiences of University Youth"

The pro-unification "United Daily News" [circulation: 400,000]  
editorialized (9/28):

"In the face of the violent waves caused by the campaign to fight corruption and oust Bian, the DPP will celebrate its twentieth anniversary today. ... The DPP is a twenty-year-old, sloppy-looking 'old man' now, which has lost its wisdom and ability and is on the verge of dying. As of now, it is still communicating with the young men using sixty-plus-year-old hackneyed discourses. The party has no imagination and is full of deception. If the DPP loses the support of youth, it will lose its future as well!"

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